

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02704 111019Z

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ACTION EA-14

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USIA-15 CU-04 NSCE-00 /093 W  
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R 110821Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2704

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: CANADIAN OBSERVATION OF PRC INTERNAL SITUATION

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATIONS CONGENOFF HAD WITH PEKING-BASED CANADIAN JOURNALIST JOHN BURNS MARCH 9, AND WITH CANADIAN PEKING EMBASSY OFFICER DON WATERFALL MARCH 11.

2. THE MOVEMENT AND THE LEADERSHIP: BURNS REMARKED THAT FONMIN PRESS DIVISION OFFICIAL MA YU-CHEN HAD BECOME LESS CATEGORICAL IN HIS DENIALS THAT TOP LEADERS WERE IN ANY WAY AFFECTED BY THE INTERNAL POLITICAL MOVEMENT. WHEREAS EARLIER MA HAD SAID FLATLY THAT PREMIER CHOU AND OTHER TOP LEADERS WERE NOT TARGETS, AT THE TIME OF THE KAUNDA VISIT IN LATE FEBRUARY MA WAS RESTRICTING HIS REMARKS TO A TERSE WARNING AGAINST ANY SPECULATION. WATERFALL SAID THAT A FONMIN OFFICER DEALING WITH CANADIAN AFFAIRS, WHEN ASKED RECENTLY IF WU TEH, CHIEF OF THE CULTURAL GROUP UNDER THE STATE COUNCIL, MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE OVER THE SHANSI OPERA INCIDENT (HONG KONG 2321), HAD REPLIED THAT IT WAS "HARD TO SAY." BURNS AND WATERFALL BOTH FELT THAT THESE REMARKS REFLECTED SOME NEW DEGREE OF APPREHENSION THAT TOP LEVEL TARGETS ARE INVOLVED.

3. SHANSI OPERA: WATERFALL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SHANSI OPERA "THREE VISITS TO TAOFENG," WHICH HAS COME UNDER SHARP ATTACK, WAS TELEVISED IN PEKING DURING THE NORTH CHINA THEATRICAL FESTIVAL.

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4. UNIVERSITIES IN PEKING: WATERFALL SAID THAT A NEW JOURNAL RESEMBLING SHANGHAI'S STUDY AND CRITICISM BUT PUBLISHED BY TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY WAS ON SALE IN PEKING AND LOOKED TO BE INTERESTING. HE OFFERED NO OTHER DETAILS. HE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AT TSINGHUA AS "BACK TO NORMAL" WITH NO SIGNS OF MUCH GOING ON OUTSIDE ROUTINE ACADEMIC STUDY. PEKING UNIVERSITY, HOWEVER, WAS VIRTUALLY DESERTED, WITH MOST OF THE STUDENTS OFF ON PROPAGANDA TEAMS PROPAGATING THE ANTI-LIN/CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN IN FACTORIES AND OTHER PLACES.

5. CANTON LEADERSHIP: PASSING THROUGH CANTON ON THE WAY TO HONG KONG, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER SHELLY WARNER, WHO WAS TRAVELING WITH WATERFALL, ASKED OF HER TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE WHO THE KWANGTUNG FIRST SECRETARY AND REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WAS. HE REPLIED THAT HSU SHIH-YU HELD THOSE POSITIONS. (WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING TO CONFIRM THIS. BOTH HSU AND FORMER KWANGTUNG NUMBER TWO KUNG SHIH-CHUAN HAVE BEEN OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT.) OSBORN

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